

Columbia Missourian

70th Year — No. 184

Good Morning! It's Friday, April 21, 1978

2 Sections — 20 Pages — 15 Cents

Vance, Gromyko
begin talks

Story on Page 14A

School board approves new tax levy vote

By Laurie Scott
Missourian staff writer

The Columbia school board Thursday proposed a 19-cent tax rate increase to provide funds needed to raise teachers' salaries to a level more competitive with surrounding school districts.

In a 4-1 decision, the board approved member Ray Lewis' proposal to "adopt a general goal of a \$9,000 base teachers' salary, subject to the approval of an appropriate tax levy" to be voted on June 6 in a special election.

Superintendent Russell Thompson estimated that the proposed \$700 increase in the base salary, together with increases built into the

present salary schedule, would cost \$900,000.

He said expected increases of \$450,000 in receipts from local, county and state sources would pay for half of the salary increase. The 19-cent increase in the tax rate would provide an additional \$342,000. The remaining \$108,000 would be made up with 11 staff reductions.

The district's present total operating tax rate is \$3.75 per \$100 assessed valuation. If the proposal is approved by two-thirds of the district voters, the operating rate would increase to \$3.94 per assessed valuation.

In the past two years, efforts to pass two 44-cent increases and one 47-cent increase have failed.

"It's extremely important that we establish a

goal of \$9,000," Thompson said. He presented two other options, in addition to the 19-cent increase in the tax rate, to attain a \$9,000 base salary.

The \$700 increase could be attained by cutting 45 staff members, but Thompson warned this could drop Columbia to a AA or A rating by the state department of education. Cutting 45 from the staff also would cause unequal pupil-teacher ratios between schools, he added, while the 11 cuts included in the 19-cent proposal could be accomplished by attrition.

The third option was a 25-cent tax rate increase.

Board member James Oglesby supported the 25-cent increase, saying the six-cent difference

would not significantly affect chances for success, and would save the board from making "traumatic" reductions in staff.

But Thompson said after talking with teachers and parents he thinks "19 cents will be difficult and every cent over 19 will be just that much more difficult."

Member Jan Fisch said she found positive reaction from district residents to a 19-cent tax rate increase, but cautioned the board about going higher than 20 cents.

The proposed \$9,000 base salary falls short of the \$9,800 recommended by the Columbia Community Teachers Association at the February meeting. Even with the proposed increase, Columbia's base salary would be \$200

below the lowest starting salary in surrounding districts of comparable size, according to figures presented to the board by Tom Sisson, COTA salary committee chairman.

"Attracting and retaining quality teachers in Columbia's public schools will be a difficult task with salary discrepancies of this magnitude," Sisson said. "I seriously doubt if the public out there realizes just how critical this school financial picture is in Columbia."

"I think that this district could well use a 50- to 60-cent levy," Lewis said. "I do not think we are accomplishing anything if we submit a levy that we cannot pass. We're going to have to fight like hell to get 19 cents passed."

Beach sees problems in growth

Interest in ecology shapes viewpoint

To understand Fran Beach's political philosophy, you first must know her professional background.

The Fifth Ward representative has a master's degree in science education from Columbia University, a master's in zoology from the University of Michigan, and is currently in environmental and conservation studies at UMC. She has done research at the Rockefeller Institute, taught laboratory skills to African nurses at the Methodist Mission Hospital in Liberia, and taught English at Providence College, Taiwan.

As a result, the ecology-minded councilwoman has shown a continued interest in energy conservation and the preservation of Columbia's natural resources during her three terms as a member of the City Council.

A direct offshoot of these objectives is her belief in Columbia's need to attract a more diversified economy, primarily scientific research industries. "We need to attract more satellite industries with research offices and facilities which would be compatible with the University setting and medical complex," she says.

This is the fifth in a series of seven

Insight

This report is part of a seven-article series on the Columbia city council. In the series, the opinions of each city council member and the mayor and some of their constituents as to the council's mid-term performance are reported by Cathy Reiman, Cameron Cohick, John Callison and Kai-I Yen of the Missourian's special reporting team on government and politics.

articles profiling the individual members of the Columbia City Council as they pass the midway point of their present term in office. This article focuses on Beach's beliefs and reactions towards her job on the council and the ward she represents. The next article focuses on Sixth Ward Councilman Clyde Wilson.

Another complimentary goal, and accomplishment of hers is the acquisition and maintenance of more open-area neighborhood parks. Since her first term in 1973, the Oakwood Hills and Rock Bridge subdivisions in the Fifth Ward have acquired parks. She points to the first addition of the "green belt," Gordon Tract, a 200-acre area of natural, rugged land along Grindstone Creek, south of the University as a personal accomplishment. She also spearheaded the City Council's (See MS. BEACH, Page 14A)



Keith Graham

Gay Lib takes march of victory

By Tom Evans and David Bushman
Missourian staff writers

After a seven-year battle to gain University recognition, the University's official Gay Lib organization ignored more than 100 hecklers and marched defiantly to its first meeting Thursday night.

The meeting was marked by words of assurance from James Banning, vice chancellor for student affairs. "I would like to apologize for the reception you

received tonight outside," Banning said. "I also want to indicate to you as a recognized student group that my office will do what it can to protect your rights to assemble and to be here."

Banning left the meeting to a rousing ovation.

No arrests were made at the march, Columbia police said Thursday night. Jane Maune, a reporter for KBIA radio, suffered a head cut when she apparently was struck by a stone.

Sporting a banner with the words "We won recognition, now let's talk," the members marched by candlelight from the Ecumenical Center, 813 Maryland Ave., to the meeting at the Memorial Union.

As members prepared for the march, they watched from inside the center as 15, then 30, then more than 75 protesters formed in the street beneath them. Jeers

(See GAY, Page 14A)



Members of the Gay Lib organization march across the University campus marking their official recognition as a student group. As the homosexuals approach the Memorial Union, other students assemble outside to protest the march. Inside the Union, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Banning asks the protesting students to disperse. He later said they could enter the Gay Lib meeting room.

Local labor lacking in Federal job project

By Dan Ray and Sandra Zec
Missourian staff writers

In bright red letters, the sign in front of the construction site at the Fire and Police Building, Seventh and Walnut Streets, says: "Jobs for your community." As required by a federal guideline in the project contract, the sign has three coats of enamel on its front and one coat on its back, and its letters appear on a white background.

But the sign's promise — local jobs — is not being fulfilled.

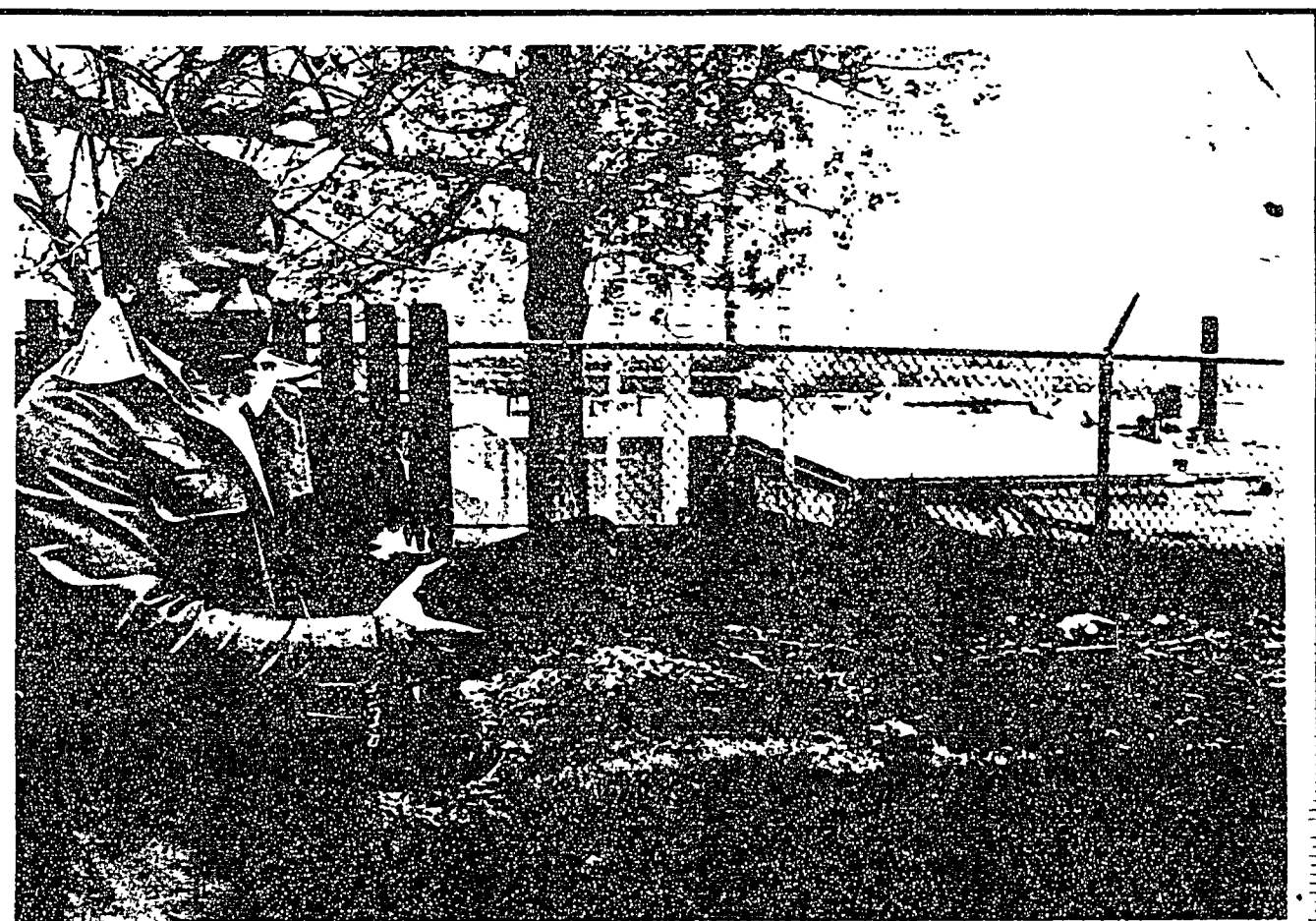
Columbia was awarded a \$1.5 million Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant because of an area designated by the city as a "pocket of poverty." The area is bounded roughly on the north by In-

terstate 70, on the west by Garth Avenue, on the south by Elm Street and on the east by St. Joseph Street and Paris Road. About 4,800 persons live there.

An EDA spokesman said Wednesday that stimulating employment in that area, where the current unemployment figure is 12 percent, is "the main function" of the grant program.

However, few people living in the "pocket" are being picked to work on the project. Only six of the 17 persons working on the project's first phase are from Columbia, according to payroll records submitted to project architects. The other 11 are from mid-Missouri. Whether any of the six are from the

(See MUELLER, Page 12A)



Margaret Felton

Don Schupp holds one of his few surviving chickens

Fumes may be chicken killer

By Margaret Felton
Missourian staff writer

BOONVILLE — Forty-six of Don Schupp's spring chickens died Monday. Schupp thinks it was something in the air that day.

Last March, 107 of the 114 birds in his outdoor pen died when the wind was coming from the southeast, as it did for six hours on Monday.

Schupp raises fighting game chickens as a hobby. He is a science teacher at David Barton Junior High

School in Boonville.

Schupp's backyard meets the roof of the McGraw-Edison Corp. plant. Schupp thinks fumes from the factory's Teflon treating process may be blown across his property by springtime wind patterns, killing the chickens. Schupp describes these odors as pungent, "like a cleaning agent."

McGraw-Edison issued a statement Wednesday from its main office in Elgin, Illinois. "The company is both interested in determining whether an

emission problem exists at the Boonville plant, and if we have a problem, we will take the necessary steps to correct the situation," said William R. Rawson, vice president of administration.

He said that the company is cooperating with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to determine if there is an emission problem associated with the Boonville plant. (See TEFLON, Page 12A)



Mushroom mania!

April is traditionally the Month of the Mushroom. These elusive citizens of the forest are now sprouting in the cool shaded glens of Missouri, and some make terrific eating. Weekend tells you how to find them and how to cook them. See page 1B.

Inside today

The atmosphere inside Texas Stadium was as tense as that at an open casting call for a Broadway production. The young women were about to begin tryouts for the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders, three dozen of the most envied, celebrated and sought-after women in the country. John Crewdson of The New York Times was at those tryouts, and his report is on Page 7A.

FBI pickets

As former FBI director Patrick Gray and two aides were inside pleading innocent to federal charges of illegally eavesdropping on a Weatherman terrorist group during the Nixon administration, outside the federal courthouse nearly 1,000 FBI agents demonstrated to protest the charges. Details on Page 2A.

Casting call

The atmosphere inside Texas Stadium was as tense as that at an open casting call for a Broadway production. The young women were about to begin tryouts for the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders, three dozen of the most envied, celebrated and sought-after women in the country. John Crewdson of The New York Times was at those tryouts, and his report is on Page 7A.

In town today

1:30 p.m. The University baseball Tigers play Iowa State, Simmons Field.
8:15 p.m. University percussion ensemble, Fine Arts Recital Hall.
7 and 9:30 p.m. Kentucky Fried Movie, Middlebush Auditorium, University.
7 p.m. "Universe as a Scratchpad," film, room 114 Physics Building, University.

Movie listings on Page 2B

Index

Classified 9-11A
Comics/TV 12A
Opinion 4A
Record 12A
Sports 6-7A
Stocks 11A
Weekend 1-4B